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Gatherings cancelled to prevent COVID-19 spread

by SUE TIFFIN
Times Staff

Across the country, efforts to contain the spread of the coronavirus have come in the form of closures, cancellations and as of March 17, a provincial state of emergency. Effective March 18, the federal government planned to close the border to non-citizens, with some exceptions.

In the county, an onslaught of cancellations to prevent people from contracting or sharing the highly contagious virus began March 13, after an announcement the day before that the provincial government was closing publicly funded schools until early April. That same day, the municipality of Algonquin Highlands announced the closure of community centres, programming and events at those centres as well as meetings by committees of council and the township of Minden Hills followed suit on March 17.

Additionally, local events, meetings, programming and activities including the Minden Lions Club March 20 spaghetti dinner, Cook It Up Tuesdays, the U-Links Celebration of Research planned for March 28, and events into the next few months, including the Haliburton County Fair scheduled to be held June 13 were cancelled.

The provincial state of emergency declared March 17 allows for the mandate of closures of restaurants and bars, though takeout and delivery can continue, and prohibits gatherings of more than 50 people.

At the Gordon A. Monk Funeral Home, public gatherings, services and receptions were suspended until further notice, although some private small gatherings might be possible.

Kirsten Monk said universal precautions

see CSS page 2



Minden Hills closes facilities, cancels meetings

by CHAD INGRAM

Times Staff

The Township of Minden Hills has closed most of its public facilities and cancelled public events and advisory committee meetings amid the continuing COVID-19 pandemic, with those closures in place until at

least April 5

"We are collectively working together to put into effect community-based measures that will protect the general population in Minden Hills and our surroundings, in order to do our part to slow the spread of the virus," read a March 17 press release from the township. "New information continues to be communicated by the Government of Canada and the Province of Ontario regarding preventa-

tive measures for communities."

Council, committee-of-the-whole and committee of adjustment meetings were to continue as scheduled, the release indicated.

All the facilities at the Minden Hills Cultural Centre are closed until April 7. The Minden branch of the Haliburton County Public Library, along with the rest of the library system, is closed until April

see LANDFILLS page 4



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CSS reaching out to help community members

from page 1

have been in place within the funeral services industry prior to this crisis, citing her past experience as environmental chair on the board of Ontario Funeral Services Association and historical discussions around procedure in the past, for example, during the SARS outbreak.

"It's something we constantly practice here," said Monk, noting the use of gloves, masks and gowns for staff. "I'm concerned because of how quickly [COVID-19 is] spreading but I feel that we always have taken these precautions and we should be OK."

Besides hand sanitizer and space cleaning that was already in place, Monk said on Friday, reminders were posted at the funeral home that promoted social distancing.

"We put up signs on Friday, saying please, instead of shaking hands or hugging, just put your hand to your heart to show that you're thinking of them," said Monk.

As cases began being reported in Ontario and cancellation and closure announcements were relayed, Monk said she and partner Barry Cray were determining what to do about future services, reaching out to families and church leaders.

"We're just trying to stay calm, and focused, and very much trying to stay on top of everything," said Monk.

"When Doug Ford made the announcement this morning it was just like, it's out of our hands. Basically he's done the right thing because it's taken it away from us saying we're afraid to do this or we don't want to do this ... and we're not the only ones, there are others. I appreciate his taking this stance because that's the only way we're going to beat this."

Monk said her and Cray's past experience of dealing with spring flooding affecting their business had prepared them further for crisis.

"I'm hoping that people will just stay home for now. Believe it or not it won't last that long. We've been isolated through so many floods ... We are not as anxious about it, we're not concerned about going to a hospital, because we know that we'll do what we've always done, and we'll be OK"

Monk and Cray have also prepared a plan in case they should become sick and need to be quarantined, so that the services they provide can continue.

At Pharmasave in Minden, precautions to keep the store and pharmacy safe and sanitized and remind customers to not come in if feeling unwell or having had recently travelled are in place. The pharmacy is receiving more call-in prescriptions than usual, and they have seen high demand for items like masks and hand sanitizers since the first case was announced in Canada.

"In the store, we have zero hand sanitizer, we are low on toilet paper, we have no alcohol, no aloe gel – people were asking for it now to make their own [hand sanitizer]," said Sandra Heywood. "We got some hand sanitizer the other day, I think ... we got about 100 bottles, and put a two per household limit on them and they were gone in two and a half hours."

At press time, there had been no confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Haliburton County.

A woman in her 60s from Northumberland County was seen at the Northumberland Hills Hospital on March 11 with symptoms of an upper respiratory tract infection following a trip to Spain and Portugal. She travelled on Air Transat flight 337 from Lisbon, Portugal to Toronto on March 6.

The woman is at home in self-isolation and health unit nurses are working with her to follow up with anyone she came in contact with while she was ill as well as those who were seated near her on the plane.

"We have been working very closely with our hospitals and health care providers in anticipation of a local case and



Registered nurse Tracey Sharpless sits awaiting visitors at the Minden hospital on March 17. New screening protocols are in place at Haliburton Highlands Health Services facilities. Hyland Crest, Highland Wood and acute care are closed to non-essential visitors. /DARREN LUM Staff

pre-emptive measures were in place for this type of situation," Dr. Lynn Noseworthy, medical officer of health, said. Last Saturday, a second case was confirmed: a woman in her 60s from City of Kawartha Lakes. The woman was seen by health professionals at Ross Memorial Hospital in Lindsay on March 12. The woman had travelled on Air Canada flight 877 from Frankfurt, Germany to Toronto on March 10.

COVID-19, a new coronavirus that originated in Wuhan, China, causes a respiratory infection that is frequently mild. However, for older adults and those with chronic diseases, it can be dangerous and sometimes fatal. As of Tuesday, there were more than 196,000 cases globally, 478 in Canada and 180 in Ontario, with five in the province resolved.

Since the virus is mainly spread through person-to-person contact, the public has been advised to practice frequent and thorough hand-washing with soap and water for at least 20 seconds; to avoid touching eyes, mouth and nose; covering the mouth and nose with a tissue when coughing or sneezing (and then throwing the tissue away and washing one's hands); and staying home if sick.

Those who have travelled outside Canada to countries affected by COVID-19 are being asked to self-isolate for 14 days after leaving the affected country. At Haliburton Highlands Health Services, chief financial officer Kathy Newton said points of entry have been reduced and all staff, visitors and volunteers are being screened as they arrive.

Those with a fever and/or cough who have travelled to one of the affected countries in the last 14 days or who have had contact with someone who probably has COVID-19 is asked to self-isolate at home.

"Please consider our vulnerable patients and residents if you plan to visit during this time frame," Newton told the *Times*, "make sure you are not experiencing any signs of illness and ensure you sign in to our visitor log and practice good hand hygiene by hand-washing or using alcohol-based

hand sanitizer as you enter our facility."

On Monday, long-term care was closed to non-essential visitors as was acute care. All staff at HHHS are self-screening daily.

Telephone and home visits are being scheduled with community health-care providers where possible and several group programs run through HHHS have been cancelled.

Newton pointed out that for many people who are infected with the virus, symptoms are mild.

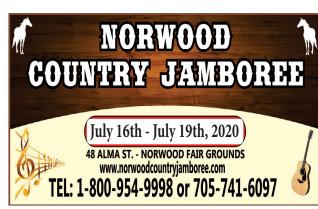
"Most people who are exposed to COVID-19 or other respiratory viruses through international travel, or contact with people who have travelled internationally, are safe to stay at home if they do develop symptoms, and take care of themselves by practising good hand-washing, cleaning home surfaces, and getting plenty of rest, drinking lots of fluids and eating healthy foods," she said. "It is good to keep distance between yourself and other family members who are not ill, just as you would do with a cold or the 'flu.""

HHHS is cancelling several group programs until further notice including the diabetes workshops, balanced fitness/falls prevention, adult day program, grief support group, social recreation drop-in, diner's clubs, cancer support group and other gatherings of volunteers.

Community Support Services continues to help those in need in the community. "HHHS Community Programs is actively working across all programs and community partners to ensure those most in need have the support they need at this time. Please let us know how we can best support you and your family," Newton said.

If you believe you may have COVID-19, contact the Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge District Health Unit at 1-866-888-4577 ext. 5020 or Telehealth Ontario at 1-866-797-0000. If your symptoms are severe, call 911 and inform the dispatcher that it could be COVID-19 so responders can be prepared.







As a precaution against the spread of the coronavirus, the Times office is reducing our hours and asking you don't come in if you feel sick sick or have travelled in the last 14 days.

Until further notice, our offices will be open Monday to Friday, 9am to noon.

We will be keeping our regular hours by phone at 705-286-1288 or 705-457-1037.

Staying at home can be educational

Right, Ella started her March Break in Minden with learning at home, alongside her sister, Ariana. /Submitted

Below, Lennon and Harper are staying at home with their parents for the next few weeks, doing puzzles, playing board games. playing outside, making Rube Goldberg machines, and joining the Haliburton County Public Library's online storytimes. / Submitted





Online resources offer education for kids at home

by SUE TIFFIN Times Staff

With the announcement of school being closed for two weeks after March Break, educators and parents began pulling together online resources to help kids continue to learn while being at home, including many that offered free memberships due to the outbreak of COVID-19. Here are some of those resources:

• Scholastic Learn at Home offers day-byday projects

https://classroommagazines.scholastic. com/support/learnathome.html

• CBC teaching guides include lesson plans, slideshows and activity sheets on topics such as the Indian Act, the secret life of Chinatown and how we might fix climate change

https://www.cbc.ca/radio/podcastnews/ topic/Tag/teachingguides

• Tour Yellowstone National Park https://www.nps.gov/yell/learn/photosmultimedia/virtualtours.htm

• Explore the surface of Mars on the Curiosity Rover

https://accessmars.withgoogle.com/

• FarmFood360 offers virtual tours of farms including for a chance to learn about eggs, minks, pigs, dairy cows, apples and a Canadian feed mill

http://www.farmfood360.ca

- Great Wall of China virtual tour https://www.thechinaguide.com/ destination/great-wall-of-china
- · Hear kids books read by celebrities (we recommend Strega Nona by Mary Steenburgen) http://www.storylineonline.net
- Movement and mindfulness videos created by child development experts

https://www.gonoodle.com

• Cosmic Kids combines yoga and stories for fun

cosmickids.com

• Online education program available for everyone from toddlers to adults https://www.khanacademy.org



Nancy Therrien from the **Haliburton County Public** Library engaged viewers in an online storytime celebrating Dr. Seuss on March 17. The next storytime will be held on Friday, March 20 at 10:10 a.m.through the HCPL Facebook page. If you missed the last one, go to haliburtonlibrary. ca to watch it any time./ Screenshot

IN SEASON, EVERY SEASON

7 MILNE STREET PO Box 359, Minden, ON KOM 2KO

Telephone: 705-286-1260 Toll Free: 1-844-277-1260 Fax 705-286-4917

Roads: 705-286-3144 Community Services: 705-286-1936

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www.mindenhills.ca

COUNCIL MEETINGS

Public Welcome

Meetings are held at 9:00 AM in the Minden Council Chambers, 7 Milne Street. Apr 9 - Committee of the Whole Council Meeting Apr 30 - Regular Council Meeting

> For Council, Boards & Advisory Committee meetings, visit www.mindenhills.ca

Note: Council meetings are reduced to one (1) for the months of July, August and December

BUILDING INSPECTORS WANTED!

The Construction industry is booming in Minden Hills, and in order to keep up with demand we are looking for qualified individuals to join our team. If you enjoy both inside and outside work, being part of a dynamic team of professionals, and have your Building Code certifications in General Legal/Process and House or Small Buildings and/or Onsite Sewage Systems, we would like to hear from you.

As a member of CUPE Local 4286, your hours of work will consist of 35/ week, with an hourly rate of pay of \$25.69, currently under review.

Benefits include: a comprehensive health, dental, insurance, sick and pension plan; as well as training and development opportunities for professional growth.

Visit www.mindenhills.ca/employment-opportunities/ or email sprentice@mindenhills.ca for more information.

CALL FOR COMMITTEE MEMBERS CEMETERY ADVISORY BOARD

The Township of Minden Hills is looking for volunteers to participate as members on the Cemetery Advisory Board which governs the operations of the cemeteries which are located within the boundaries of Minden Hills and which are owned by or fall under the responsibility of the municipality.

If you, or someone you know is interested in getting involved, please complete and submit an Advisory Committee Application Form in person, by mail or email to:

> Cemetery Board Advisory Committee Application Clerk's Department, 2nd floor Township of Minden Hills 7 Milne Street, PO Box 359 Minden, ON K0M 2K0

> > or email: sprentice@mindenhills.ca

This is an open call for applications until membership is filled.

For more information, please contact Vicki Bull, Clerk at 705-286-1260 x. 215 or vbull@mindenhills.ca.

> Application Forms are available online at https://mindenhills.ca/advisory-committees-2/



RECYCLING TIP OF THE WEEK

Drink pouches, chip bags, straws and disposable cutlery are not recyclable. Please place these items in your garbage. For a full list of items that can be recycled, please visit mindenhills.ca/landfill

CALL FOR COMMITTEE MEMBERS COMMUNITY CENTRE FUNDRAISING WORKING GROUP

The Township of Minden Hills is looking for volunteers to participate as members on the Community Centre Fundraising Working Group (CCFWG)

If you, or someone you know, enjoy being involved in an interactive volunteer committee, and/or want to be part of a historic, community based project for Minden Hills, and/or have fundraising experience, and/or administrative skills

Please complete and submit an Advisory Committee Application Form in person, by mail or email to:

> CCFWG Application Clerk's Department, 2nd floor Township of Minden Hills 7 Milne Street, PO Box 359

or email: sprentice@mindenhills.ca

This is an open call for applications until membership is filled.

For more information, please contact Vicki Bull, Clerk at 705-286-1260 x 215 or vbull@mindenhills.ca.

Application Forms are available online at https://mindenhills.ca/ advisory-committees-2/.



What you need to know about COVID-19 in five easy steps

There is no cure for this virus that spreads like the common cold through respiratory droplets from infected persons, entering your eyes, nose or mouth either directly when someone coughs or sneezes, or via your own hands when you touch something with the virus on it and then touch your own face.

Reduce Your Risk Of Getting Or Spreading

1. Strong Immune System

- Vitamin C and plenty of fruits and vegetables
- Daily exercise (aim for 30-60 mins of activity as able)
- Sleep and rest (eight hours a night, ideally)
- Fresh air and outside time (open windows and go outside; virus thrives indoors on surfaces)
- Laugh and "chill out" every day (a good belly laugh decreases stress hormones that "run down" your immune system)
- Avoid smoking (any substances) and alcohol (even small amounts of alcohol decrease robustness of your immune system)
- Ensure your vaccinations are up to date

2. Avoid Sick People (Social Distancing)

- Keep two magic metres (six feet) between yourself and anyone who is coughing or sneezing, has a fever or has difficulty breathing
- Infected people may have few or no symptoms, or think they have a cold or flu; anyone could be a carrier so keep your distance
- Symptoms may take up to 14 days to appear after exposure, but even in this symptom-free period, a person may be able to transmit the virus, so practice good (hand) hygiene
- Avoid crowds, gatherings or events

3. Practice Good (Hand) Hygiene

- Wash! Your! Hands! Wash them for at least 20 seconds each time. Wash them before you prepare food, eat, after using the bathroom, after you cough or sneeze, and if you are caring for sick people. If you don't have soap and water, use a sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol.
- Do not touch your eyes, nose and mouth.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with your elbow, or cough/sneeze into a tissue and throw it in the trash.
- Clean frequently touched objects and surfaces with a disinfecting spray or wipe. Clean your phone!

4. Stay Home If You Are Sick

And if you are asked to quarantine, or are looking after someone in quarantine, use dedicated towels, utensils, bedding, washroom (if possible), to avoid contaminating the household and to protect others. Use gloves and a mask when cleaning up after an infected person. Wash linens in hot water and avoid leaving objects that have "viral droplets" lying around. The virus can survive on inanimate surfaces for potentially several days. (There is specific information on the Public Health Website for how to manage

home quarantining.)

5. Diagnosing And Managing COVID-

(Coronavirus infections are diagnosed by a healthcare provider based on symptoms and may be confirmed through laboratory tests.)

Are you back from a trip outside Canada?

You are asked to *self-isolate* for 14 days, as per Government of Canada (see self-isolation instructions). Even if you develop mild symptoms, it's unlikely you need to be tested because self-isolation is enough to protect others.

If you develop flu-like symptoms fever (> 38 deg Celsius), and/or new onset/worsening cough or difficulty breathing within 14 days, continue to isolate yourself and call a public health authority or health care professional. (You could be considered for testing, according to current recommendations.)

Whether or not you have travelled, if you are sick enough to call an ambulance (911), you *must advise health care providers* about *travel* or *risk factors* (close or confirmed contact with a probable case of COVID-19) ahead of their arrival so they can arrange swift and safe transport.

If you are not severely ill but you need to see a doctor or get advice about whether you should be tested, call:

Public Health Unit at 1-866-888-4577 ext. 5020

Telehealth Ontario at 1-866-797-0000 Your family physician's office

Go to the coronavirus self-assessment page: https://www.ontario.ca/page/2019-novel-coronavirus-covid-19-self-assessment

We ask that you avoid going to the hospital or other health care setting if you have mild symptoms; emergency departments must be kept for people who are truly unwell and need urgent medical care. Use judgement and do not visit the emergency department simply because you have a risk factor (and are otherwise feeling well).

Non-essential medical appointments will be rescheduled.

You can schedule appointments with your family physician or health care provider to occur over the phone.

What if I think I have the virus but symptoms are mild?

- Drink plenty of fluids
- Get rest and sleep as much as possible
- Try a humidifier or hot shower to help sore throat and cough
- Self-isolate at home for 14 days (see instructions on next page)

What if I have risk factors (travel or contact with someone who has travelled or is unwell) but I have no symptoms?

- Self-monitor for 14 days after exposure (see instructions on this page)
- If you develop symptoms, then selfisolate immediately (see instructions on next page)

Resources to keep you up to date about COVID-19:

www.hhfht.com Haliburton Highlands Family Health Team

https://www.hkpr.on.ca local Public Health Unit https://www.who.int/ World Health Organization

https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/2019-novel-coronavirus-infection/being-prepared.html Government of Canada

Additional coronavirus preparedness

When do I need to wear a mask?

Stock up on prescription medications, not masks.

Masks are prioritized for patients with symptoms. If you have a cough then wearing a mask or scarf over your nose and mouth can help prevent the spread of "viral droplets" to others. (To protect yourself, wash your hands and do not touch your face.)

You may want to have medications on reserve in case of short supply or if you are quarantined (e.g. insulin for diabetic patients). The recommendation is to have two

weeks of supplies on hand.

Everyone has a role to play in keeping our community healthy and preventing the spread of illness.

You can think about ways to reduce risk such as avoiding non-essential travel, avoiding crowds, having groceries delivered, shopping *online* or at less busy times, exercising *outdoors*, having critical supplies on hand (diapers, feminine hygiene products, fever reducing medicines, detergent and bleach, tissues, toilet paper, soap), refilling prescriptions ahead of time.

Remember, keep your immune system healthy, avoid contact with unwell persons, wash! your! hands!, keep up to date with government travel and medical advisories, stay home if you are sick and encourage others to do the same.

Submitted by the Haliburton Highlands Family Health Team

Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)

How to self-monitor

Follow the advice that you have received from your health care provider.

If you have questions, or you start to feel worse, contact your health care provider,

Telehealth (1-877-797-0000) or your public health unit.

Monitor for symptoms for 14 days after exposure



Fever



Cough



Difficulty breathing

Avoid public spaces

 Avoid crowded public spaces and places where you cannot easily separate yourself from others if you become ill.

What to do if you develop these or any other symptoms?

- Self-isolate immediately and contact your public health unit and your health care provider.
- To self-isolate you will need:
 - o Instructions on how to self-isolate
 - \circ Supply of procedure/surgical masks (enough for 14 days)
 - o Soap, water and/or alcohol-based hand sanitizer to clean your hands
- When you visit your health care provider, avoid using public transportation such as subways, taxis and shared rides. If unavoidable, wear a mask and sit in the back seat.

The fact sheets above and on the right are produced by Public Health Ontario. Updated information on the coronavirus can be found at Ontario.ca/coronavirus.

Landfills, admin office remain open

from page 1

6. All Minden Hills community centres – in Minden, Lochlin and Irondale – are closed, and the Minden Hills fire hall is also closed to the public.

Landfills remain open, along with the township's main administration building, although residents are strongly encouraged to use the township's online resources to conduct business with the township for the time being.

"The Township of Minden Hills council and staff encourage everyone to stay calm and continue with infection control practices, such as; frequent hand washing and sanitizing, coughing into sleeves (not hands) and remaining at home if feeling unwell," the release read. "The Township of Minden Hills encourages social distancing measures as a way to minimize COVID-19 transmission in the community. This means minimizing close contact with others during this outbreak. The health and safety of the community is our priority and we will continue to provide updates as information becomes available to us. We encourage everyone to visit our website www.mindenhills.ca ... for up to date news and information."



Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)

How to self-isolate

Follow the advice that you have received from your health care provider.

If you have questions, or you start to feel worse, contact your health care provider, Telehealth (1-877-797-0000) or your local public health unit.

Stay home

- Do not use public transportation, taxis or rideshares.
- Do not go to work, school or other public places.
- Your health care provider or public health unit will tell you when it is safe to leave.



Limit the number of visitors in your home

- Only have visitors who you must see and keep the visits short.
- Keep away from seniors and people with chronic medical conditions (e.g. diabetes, lung problems, immune deficiency).



Avoid contact with others

- Stay in a separate room away from other people in your home as much as possible and use a separate bathroom if you have one.
- Make sure that shared rooms have good airflow (e.g. open windows).



Keep distance

- If you are in a room with other people, keep a distance of at least two
 metres and wear a mask that covers your nose and mouth.
- If you cannot wear a mask, people should wear a mask when they are in the same room as you.



Cover your coughs and sneezes

- Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when you cough or sneeze.
- Cough or sneeze into your upper sleeve or elbow, not your hand.
- Throw used tissues in a lined wastebasket, and wash your hands.
 Lining the wastebasket with a plastic bag makes waste disposal easier and safer.
- After emptying the wastebasket wash your hands.



Wash your hands

- Wash your hands often with soap and water.
- Dry your hands with a paper towel, or with your own cloth towel that no one else shares.
- Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not available.



Wear a mask over your nose and mouth

- Wear a mask if you must leave your house to see a health care provider.
- Wear a mask when you are within two metres of other people.



AH closes facilities, cancels events

by CHAD INGRAM

Times Staff

The Township of Algonquin Highlands is closing its public facilities, cancelling events and suspending meetings amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

After a meeting of the township's emergency operations committee on the morning of Friday, March 13, Mayor Carol Moffatt announced the decision via social media.

"The discussion focused on public and staff safety, particularly around business and service continuity for the public," Moffatt wrote. "This included workplace strategies for staff and public safety; potential implications for public spaces and gatherings; and emergency management considerations not only for our fire services but also for any disruption to services should municipal workers contract the virus.

"With only five councillors and just over 30 employees, Algonquin Highlands doesn't have an over-abundance of staff to manage municipal functions should the virus come calling. There is a tremendous influx of people into our community over March Break. The widespread cancellation of events, at-

tractions and gatherings, along with the closure of public schools for an extra two weeks further informed this morning's discussion."

The community centres in Stanhope, Oxtongue Lake and Dorset are closed until further notice, including the fitness centre at the Dorset Recreation Centre. All programming and events that take place at the centres are cancelled until further notice.

Meetings of committees of council are suspended, with the exception of the committee of adjustment, which has legislated timelines.

It's asked anyone visiting the township office use the hand sanitizer provided, and residents are reminded they can pay their taxes online rather than visiting the office.

Moffatt's notice said updates on the issue would be provided each Friday until operations return to normal.

"We thank the public for their understanding of our obligation toward safety regarding public spaces and the general well-being of the community," she wrote.

As of Tuesday afternoon, there were two confirmed cases of the virus within the jurisdiction of the Haliburton Kawartha Pine Ridge District Health Unit, but none within Haliburton County.

County of Haliburton closes office to public

by CHAD INGRAM

Times Staff

The County of Haliburton has closed its office on Newcastle Street in Minden as of 4:30 p.m. on Tuesday, March 17.

County councillors held a special meeting Tuesday morning, where they passed some perfunctory resolutions. Regularly scheduled meetings of county council and its advisory committees have been suspended amid the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, and chief administrative officer Mike Rutter told the paper that after Tuesday, a number of county staffers would be working from home.

"We're just trying to limit the number of people in the building," Rutter said, reassuring the public this was not a paid vacation for staff. "Everyone is really working – we're not paying them to stay home."

A number of ongoing county projects are subject to timelines, including the service delivery review the county is having performed for itself and its four, lower-tier townships, which is supposed to be completed by mid-June in accordance with grant funding. Rutter told the paper the county will be seeking relief from the province on some of its timelines in the wake of the COVID-19 situation, and that a list of those projects was being sent to Haliburton-Kawartha Lakes-Brock MPP Laurie Scott.

Initially, Tuesday's special meeting had been called to discuss the county's draft shoreline preservation bylaw, but those conversations have been put on hold indefinitely, until such time as county business is able to return to normal.

College cancels in-person classes, takes instruction online

by JENN WATT

Editor

With only five weeks left in the winter semester, Angela Stukator, dean of Haliburton School of Art + Design said she's optimistic that alternate forms of course delivery will allow students to continue to learn, while also protecting the health and safety of the school community.

Fleming College has suspended its classes until Monday, March 23, at which time they

are to resume either online or using other means. The action was taken to address the coronavirus pandemic, which has led to travel restrictions, enhanced health-care screening, and multiple cancellations of programming and events across the country.

While the initial announcement on Friday had been to keep the buildings open, on Sunday Fleming College revised that statement, advising staff to gather the items they need from campus facilities so they can work from home

"College buildings will be closed with limited access to students and employees for the period from March 16 to April 3 unless otherwise notified. Students and employees will have limited access to the buildings from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. and will be required to sign in and out starting March 17," a statement on the college's website says.

Stukator said Fleming College had been proactive and timely in responding to student and staff concerns about the virus.

In a press release issued by the college,

president Maureen Adamson said switching to online classes was a precaution to maintain a healthy community.

"While we recognize that these actions will create inconveniences, Fleming is focused on student success and safety of all. We thank everyone for your patience, understanding and collective efforts," she said.

The college is keeping updated information on its COVID-19 response at fleming-college.ca/covid19.

INOTHERWORDS

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Strange days

CHAD INGRAM

Reporter

E'VE WATCHED it coming for a couple of months, quickly and insidiously, first in China, then Italy and other countries in Europe. Then Vancouver, then the GTA. During the weekend, the strain of coronavirus known as COVID-19 made landfall in the jurisdiction of the Haliburton Kawartha Pine Ridge District Health Unit, with cases confirmed in Northumberland County and the City of Kawartha Lakes, respectively.

As I write this, the Ontario government has just declared a state

of emergency in the province, limiting group gatherings and restricting business activity. Down the street, Haliburton County councillors are gathered at a meeting where they are effectively suspending the activities of council for the time being. The lower-tier townships have closed

their public facilities, are cancelling public meetings and events, and are asking residents to conduct their municipal business digitally. The library system is shut down, live entertainment is being cancelled and businesses of all kinds are limiting their hours. For the most part, the public, social and civic life of this community is on hold. On pause.

While there have been less wide-spread, more geographically concentrated pandemics in recent times, the truly global nature of the COVID-19 pandemic is nothing that anyone alive today has really witnessed before, and that is strange, surreal, and yes, a little bit scary.

Stay at home if you can, we're told, a prospect that seems simple enough, but may be more challenging than it seems for a society bent on busyness, one that worships at the altar of productivity.

But it's crucial that we pull back, that we seclude ourselves as much as possible. The virus spreads easily, but has to jump from vessel to vessel – that's us – to continue its spread. Listen to an infectious disease expert speak and they'll talk about the benefits of social distancing in slowing that spread. That buys us time for a vaccine to be developed. Most experts will tell you that a vaccine is likely 18 months away, but mitigating medications should be around long before that. Basically, we just have to buy the world's medical minds enough

time to do what they do. Eventually, we'll view COVID-19 the way we view the flu or common cold.

In the meantime, though, get good at solitude. If you are lucky enough to be able to work from home, do it. If your employer is offering other alternative working

arrangements, take advantage of them. Go for walks in the woods – we have a whack of them in the county. Start working on that Doug Ford oil painting you've been meaning to get around to. Learn to make sushi from scratch. Spend time with your children, or at least send them into the

Many local businesses will take an economic bruising during the coming weeks or months, so try to support them the best you can. Purchase gift certificates for future visits. Order takeout. Make online purchases. And for the love of god don't panic-purchase things. There are fewer than 20,000 of us in the county on a year-round basis. There's lots of everything to go around if we just share and keep our consumer habits at their usual level

We'll get through this together, but



"I'm tasting notes of oak and red currant."

Zoo Cougars and other acceptable flies

ESTERDAY, I spent the afternoon at my fly tying bench tying up streamers, which are a type of fly that can imitate a baitfish, sculpin, leech, crayfish or large aquatic bug such as a dragon fly nymph – but, who am I kidding, you already knew that. As you also probably know, there are a large variety of streamer patterns for a bored fly tyer to fill a fly box or two with – and each of them

serves a purpose. That purpose is, supposedly, to catch big fish.

The problem, as I see it, is every one of these patterns seems to have the kind of name that will get a person (more importantly this person) into trouble, if they utter them just as the wrong person walks into the conversation. Here's a case in point: the most fa-

mous streamer name is perhaps the Wooly Bugger.

I think you see where I am going with this.

To an angler, they are simply known as buggers – and they are an exceedingly effective streamer fly for bass and trout. Having said that, they are not the kind of fly you would want to talk about in any tone above a whisper at a church picnic or within earshot of your mother. The same goes for other famous streamers such as the Booby fly, Butt Monkey and the Sex Dungeon – all of which, I want to stress, I had no part in naming. None whatsoever.

I think that's one of the reasons why, yesterday, I chose to tie Zoo Cougars. They

were a safe choice as far as names are concerned. It's far less complicated to say I am holding a Zoo Cougar in my vise than, say, a Butt Monkey or a Booby.

Even if someone doesn't understand I am talking about fishing flies, at least tying up a few Zoo Cougars makes me sound a little braver and possibly even dangerous. Conversely, the mere mention of a Butt Monkey makes me sound like I am an im-

mature third grader, especially since I giggle each time I say it. Don't judge me.

The good news is that Zoo Cougars are an excellent fish-catching pattern too and meant for deep water as well, which is good because my fly box has too few deep water patterns. Also, they are not too hard to tie so I will soon be able to go out in public and say I have tied at least a dozen Zoo Cougars

this week alone. And, if someone calls me on this, I will be able to pass a lie detector test.

I will admit, prior to this, I had never given much thought to the importance of naming a fly. It just seemed to be part of a common frame of reference that fly anglers have, so that when someone asks what you are catching them on, they'll at least be able to tie on the pattern you lied to them about.

All this is to say that, although a rose by any other name is still a rose, their sales on Valentine's Day would probably plummet if they were renamed a scoot flower or a fart violet. Maybe that's why you don't run into many Sex Dungeons on the river.

My advice is, if you do, you should probably keep it to yourself.



STEVE GALEA *Beyond 35*

INOTHERWORDS

Columns and Letters to the Editor

Wolves do bite

AM STANDING on the deck, drinking coffee and surveying the domain.

Down at the lake one of the young folks is on the family-built rink, stick-handling a tennis ball while the three family dogs chase it.

Farther out on the lake, about 200 yards beyond the rink, a four-legged animal comes into view. It isn't one of our dogs.

I fetch binoculars and focus on the animal, trotting calmly, tail almost straight out, pointed ears erect. It is a charcoal black wolf.

It stops and stares intently at the dogs on the rink. Then it turns its gaze to the two-legged guy with the hockey stick and breaks into a trot towards the woods farther down the shore.

It is exciting to see a wolf in the wild and the sightings seem to becoming

more common.



JIM POLING SR. From Shaman's Rock

Some years back two grandkids playing in the snow watched two wolves pull down a deer on the ice-covered lake in front of our cottage. It was a savage scene but a valuable lesson about life and nature.

Last year, on a trail behind the cottage, I came face to face with a wolf. Normally it would have been well aware of my presence and stayed hidden but it was preoccupied chasing a snowshoe hare.

It ran right into my path, skidding to a stop in the snow and giving me a look of complete shock be-

fore bolting into a dense cedar patch.

It was amazing to be that close to a wolf and brought on a flood of memories about the controversy over whether wolves will kill and eat humans.

The patriarch of the newspaper where I got my first journalism job made a career promoting the theory that wolves will not eat people.

James. W. Curran was publisher of the Sault Ste. Marie *Daily Star* early in the 20th century and promoted the surrounding Algoma District through his defence of wolves. The newspaper's logo was a howling wolf and J.W. wrote two books about them, the most famous titled Wolves Don't Bite.

J.W. offered a cash award to anyone who could prove he was "et by a wolf." It was a publicity promotion and of course no one ever claimed the

Sadly, there is evidence that wolves, given a safe opportunity and the right circumstances, will kill and eat a human.

A most recent Canadian case is documented in a newly-released book titled Cry Wolf: Inquest into the True Nature of a Predator by author Harold R. Johnson.

In November 2005, Kenton Carnegie, a geological engineering student from the University of Waterloo went for a walk at a mining camp in northern Saskatchewan. He never returned because he was attacked and killed by wolves.

Wolf attacks are so rare and the subject so controversial that the Saskatchewan coroner's office hired a wolf expert to investigate. The expert concluded that Kenton had been attacked and killed by a bear.

Kenton's parents refused to accept that finding. It was November, with snow on the ground, bears presumably hibernating and wolf tracks near the body. They hired Harold Johnson, a Metis, Harvard Law graduate and retired Crown prosecutor to represent them at the coroner's inquest.

The coroner's jury, according to Johnson, "saw through the biased report" by the wolf expert and hearing expert evidence gathered by the parents and presented by Johnson, concluded that Kenton had been attacked and partially eaten by wolves.

Johnson later decided to write a book about the tragic case and it is an intriguing read.

Intriguing because Johnson included a theory raised by some Indigenous

The theory is that wolves were almost eradicated in North America because humans hated them for killing wildlife like elk and caribou, and more importantly, livestock. Many places offered bounties and wolf populations crashed.

The Indigenous elder theory is that the wolves slaughtered through hateful attitudes and government bounties were older wolves, the ones that train the

Now we see more wolves; wolves chasing snowmobiles, wolves coming into yards to attack dogs. Wolves that haven't been taught fear by their

Johnson writes that to survive in future, humans must save the ecosystem that includes wolves as well as humans. And, we must figure out how our two species can share the planet.

letters to the editor

Come together to preserve shorelines

I would like to send a shout out to the media, Coalition for Haliburton County Property Owners' Associations, Kennisis Lake Cottage Owners' Association, Environment Haliburton, councillors, mayors, businesses and all community members who have been diligent in providing ongoing, factual, informative updates on the shoreline preservation bylaw issue and the current indefinite postponement. County council has made a wise decision based on our current health crisis and the importance of adequate attendance at a future meeting. I commend Mayor Carol Moffatt of Algonquin Highlands on reaching out to the broader community and the clarifications and support she provided in her Facebook post this weekend.

As a resident with both riverfront and lakefront cottage property in Haliburton County I believe in community members exercising their voice and concerns. However, at the same time I feel it is important that we do this with civility and respect. It truly saddens me to hear that people are being asked to not support local businesses based on which side of the fence they sit on.

In challenging times like these we need to come together and not be divisive.

The health of our lakes and waterfronts is of paramount importance now as it will continue to affect the future of all in Haliburton County.

I look forward to open and constructive dialogue when the meeting is rescheduled.

> **Bonnie Roe** Ritchie Falls

Wildlife sanctuary meet and greet cancelled

To the Editor,

We sincerely apologize but due to health care concerns and regional recommendations regarding the coronavirus, we will be postponing our annual Volunteer and Supporter Meet and Greet that was scheduled for next weekend, March 22.

Don't despair! It will be rescheduled for the end of April, or beginning of May at the latest. I will keep you informed when we are clear to

In the meantime, anyone who wishes to vol-

unteer this year with the wildlife (hands-on care specifically), and has not already done so, please make sure that you have filled out the volunteer application form. We will be proceeding with hands-on wildlife care training sessions in the next few weeks (the wildlife babies don't read the news and will arrive anyway).

Thank you for your understanding and we are looking forward to meeting you next month.

> Monika Melichar Woodlands Wildlife Sanctuary

Self care

AM NOT A fan of the term "Self Care." One definition for it is: Selfcare is any activity that we do deliberately in order to take care of our mental, emotional, and physical health.

My point is that I feel it is really too bad that we have gotten to a state where we need to be reminded to take care of ourselves. Anyone who has travelled on an airplane knows that in the case of an emer-

gency you put the air mask on yourself before you put it on anyone else. The big message is that we are no good for others if we're not in good shape

Here we are in crisis. COVID-19 has hit big. No one is escaping some effect of this one. If it hasn't affected you physically it has likely affected you financially, and without a doubt, emotionally. I believe

that our achilles heel is that we haven't been taking adequate care of ourselves. Let's face it, if we're struggling to find time to deliberately attend to our basic needs we must know, on some level, that we are living at the top of a house of cards. We are weak.

I remember after the Twin Towers fell everyone talked about making changes in their lives. To want less and do more. To be kinder. To slow down. To appreciate the small things. The question we need to ask is, did we do that? Did we learn from that horrific event or did we revert to the way life was before?

To me, this pandemic is all about showing us who is the boss. Call it the universe, call it a greater power, call it Mother

Nature – this is a huge message and it's coming at us with the proverbial baseball bat. There is no question in my mind that we will get through this in some way, shape or form. I really hope that we are wiser on the other side. We have to change our ways. We have to make our physical, mental and even our financial health a priority. We have to acknowledge and understand our weaknesses in order to strengthen them.

> In my time on this planet I often heard the terms "tree hugger" and "navel gazer" used in derogatory ways. I will admit, the younger me would shy away from expressing my love of nature and my passion for self-improvement. Today I can see the benefits of exercising both of these traits. At this very moment with social distancing in full swing both of those activities are 100



LAURIE SWEIG Practical Fitness

per cent safe.

How about we take this time to reflect on what got us here. We are all responsible for that in some way. Then, let's use this awareness to plan for our future. I feel that the future will look very different from the past. Now is the time, while we have the time, to make those life changes we've been thinking about making.

One last point – instead of calling it self care I suggest we call it basic survival.

Something to think about.

Laurie Sweig is a certified personal fitness trainer and spinning instructor. She owns and operates The Point for Fitness. She can be reached at laurie@thepointforfitness.com.

Sir Sam's ends season early

705-457-6840

Skiers stop before heading down a run on the last day of the season for Sir Sam's Ski and Ride, which closed earlier than expected because of the coronavirus pandemic, on Monday, March 16. Premier Doug Ford announced a state of emergency on Tuesday morning, March 17, which means facilities providing indoor recreational programs, public libraries, private schools, child care centres, theatres, concert venues, and bars and restaurants (except with facilities that provide takeout and pickup) are legally required to close. /DARREN LUM Staff



info@katiesrun.ca



A young skier snowplows down a run on the last day of the season on March 16 for Sir Sam's Ski and Ride.

Loans available for businesses affected by COVID-19

If your business or organization has or will be impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, you may be interested to know about an emergency loan program being developed by the Haliburton County Development Corporation.

"Details will be released in the next few days on the HCDC website (www.haliburtoncdc.ca) and social media channels," read a March 17 release from HCDC. "Additional resources to help the community make informed decisions are posted on our website and will be updated regularly."

The organization is also encouraging all current loan clients to make contact to see what further assistance may be available.

"The way we provide support to the businesses and organizations may look different while we exercise social distancing to keep ourselves and families safe," HCDC executive director Patti Tallman said in the release.

"With the reduction of in person meetings, our team is available to the community via phone, email and online during operating hours with some emails being monitored 24/7. We are here to serve the businesses and organizations in our community at this difficult economic time."

"The health, safety and well-being of our employees, clients, partners and community is our top priority and we are following the lead of Canadian and Ontario public health authorities at this important time. Our commitment is to assist local businesses and organizations and move forward with resources," Tallman said.

HCDC is requesting that clients and those interested make contact by phone or email rather than visiting the organization's office.

Tallman can be reached at 705-457-3555 or ptallman@haliburtoncdc.ca.

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Good first impression for Minden

by CHAD INGRAM Times Staff

A first impression review of Minden garnered largely positive results through what is known as the First Impressions Community Exchange, or FICE, a program offered through the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs.

The program operates on a "secret shopper" model, where representatives from a municipality visit another municipality, quietly evaluating what the community has to offer, and compiling those findings in a report. The program is free for municipalities to partake in. In the case of Minden Hills, it was visited by representatives from Sundridge, Ont, some time last fall, likely the last weekend of September or first weekend of October, Minden Hills economic development, destination and marketing officer Emily Stonehouse told councillors during a March 12 committee-of-the-whole

According to the report from the Sundridge reps, a sense of pride of ownership and a friendly, welcoming community demeanour were among the most positive features of Minden Hills. Many aspects of the downtown - including its flowers, clean and clear sidewalks, way-finding signage, murals and the easy-to-locate cultural centre – were given a positive review from the visitors.

Because of the nature of program, Stonehouse wasn't sure how many people had been part of the Sundridge delegation, but told councillors she thought it was about eight, including members of the municipality's economic development staff and members of its council.

The Riverwalk, boardwalk, farmers' market and multi-use trails were major highlights.

"One thing that they noted was the connectivity between active living and the arts, culture and history," Stonehouse said. "So the walking trails that connect to the cultural centre where you learn about the history along the Minden heritage tour, the trail brings people right into the heart of the downtown experience. So that connectivity, that kind of brings everything we have to offer together, was something that was noted, in terms of economic development."

Among the challenges noted were the obvious seasonal economy, vacant lots and buildings, overgrowth around some entry signage and lack of discernible branding.

"It was difficult to recall the brand of the community after leaving," Stonehouse said. "So, that's something we're working on, creating that identity for what Minden Hills really is, so it doesn't blend in with a lot of other rural communities."

The visitors also noted an inconsistency between the "In Season, Every Season" slogan, which they said was generic, and the Minden Village on the Gull River signage, which they preferred. "They actually preferred 'on the Gull River'

because it's less generic and actually makes us stand out," Stonehouse said.

Councillors seemed pleased with the assessment.

Mayor Brent Devolin, gesturing to the vacant former Beaver Theatre, visible from his seat in council chambers, said that some of the village's more negative features can leave locals blind to the positive ones. "They tend to obstruct our perspective, sometimes, of the wins we already have," Devolin said.

"What's really important here is it shows how important some of these things we've done really are," said Councillor Bob Carter. "It just shows how important it is that the whole community has to work together.'

Caremongers Haliburton to provide assistance during pandemic

by CHAD INGRAM

Times Staff

County resident Donna Gagnon, along with some friends and colleagues, has organized a group designed to help others access goods and services during the ongoing COVID-19

The Caremongers Haliburton Facebook page is a forum where residents looking for items or services can request them, and volunteers will then carry out those tasks for them.

"We're all about caring and sharing, not scaremongering during this unprecedented time and thought it would be helpful to have an online place for our community to come together," Gagnon told the paper.

She's been inspired by an article she'd seen about a similar group that was created in Halifax.

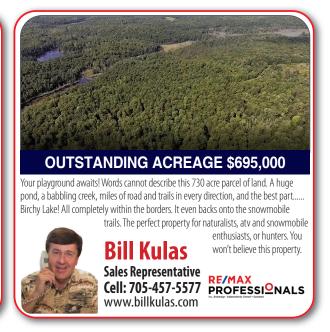
"In this group, people can ask for help if they need it," Gagnon explained, adding this could mean anything from picking up and dropping off groceries and prescriptions to having driveways shovelled to sharing items that may have become unavailable at stores.

"The goal of this group is to organize the Haliburton County community on the grassroots level to ensure vulnerable community members have access to food, health care, and other necessities," Gagnon writes on the group's Facebook page. "It is also for the redistribution of resources in the case that stockpiling prevents people from accessing basics. You can also post requests for aid/support here. Please share any opportunities/events that may be helpful to support community members!"

Instructions for those looking for assistance can be found on the page at www.facebook.com/groups/ CaremongersHaliburton.















Talks continue on shoreline bylaw

by CHAD INGRAM

Times Staff

Haliburton County councillors continued to discuss the creation of an enhanced shoreline preservation bylaw during a March 11 committee-of-the-whole meeting, and were scheduled to continue those talks at a special county council meeting on Tuesday, March 17. However, discussions on the draft bylaw have now been postponed amid the COVID-19 pandemic, and county council has cancelled its regular meetings for the time being.

During the March 11 meeting, councillors heard a presentation from Michele Bromley, who owns Boshkung Lake Tree Service, and was speaking on behalf of a group of half a dozen local landscaping companies.

While Haliburton County has had a shoreline tree preservation bylaw – restricting the cutting of trees within 30 metres of the high-water mark – since 2012, the new draft shoreline protection bylaw entails heightened protections including that of all vegetation within the same shoreline band, along with stricter regulation of site alterations, and other restrictions.

"We are not against the shoreline preservation bylaw as like many others in this community, this community is both

where we live, and where we conduct our business," Bromley said. "It's our home."

Bromley read aloud a letter from the group of landscape contractors that had been submitted to the county, outlining concerns that the draft bylaw is not comprehensive, overlaps with lower-tier bylaws in a number of areas, thereby causing confusion, and does not address a number of factors that can affect lake health, such as use of fertilizers and pesticides.

"First and foremost the group is fully supportive of a workable and comprehensive shoreline preservation bylaw to ensure the protection and rehabilitation of the water quality of our lakes," Bromley told councillors. "However, the draft bylaw as presented fails to achieve this goal, in areas is reaching beyond its original intent, and in other areas missing key factors that have significant impact on the water quality of

Bromley said the group is recommending the creation of a working committee for the bylaw that would include members of county council, the landscapers' group, the Haliburton County Homebuilder's Association, The Lakelands Association of Realtors, and proponents of the draft bylaw. The Coalition of Haliburton County Property Owners' Associations has advocated for the creation of such a bylaw, emphasizing the necessity of protecting lake health.

Dysart et al Mayor Andrea Roberts has said she supports

the idea of creating a working committee composed of a variety of community stakeholders to review the bylaw, however, Algonquin Highlands Mayor Carol Moffatt said at last week's meeting that she's strongly opposed to that idea.

"I have very serious concerns about a committee," Moffatt said. " A committee can never represent everyone." While the CHA is advocating for the bylaw, "There's even division within lake associations, from the feedback I've received," Moffatt continued, adding that various pieces of legislation would also touch on the work of a committee, and that the good intentions of forming a committee could create more work and consume more time in the long run.

Councillors have agreed there will be an extended public input process on the bylaw, likely to include a number of public meetings as well as more online engagement opportunities, and Moffatt said she'd be supportive of hiring a third party to provide consultation and produce results, "so that it's arm's length."

There were thoroughly mixed feelings among councillors on the creation of a committee. Highlands East Mayor Dave Burton was supportive. Dysart et al Deputy Mayor Pat Kennedy thought any committee should only include councillors. Minden Hills Mayor Brent Devolin thought that work should fall to the county's planning committee, which includes all of county council and will soon include a couple of members of the public as well. Algonquin Highlands Deputy Mayor and County Warden Liz Danielsen shared Moffatt's concerns that the creation of any committee could not adequately represent all stakeholders.

While during a late February council meeting councillors had agreed they would conduct an internal review of the draft bylaw during the March 11 committee-of-the-whole meeting, some had not come prepared to do so, or thought it was not worthwhile at this point in time, or that it would consume too much time in an already busy agenda for the day.

"At some point we need to discuss the content and details of the bylaw, discuss it thoroughly," Danielsen said.

Councillors agreed they would call a special meeting on Tuesday, March 17 to delve into the details of the bylaw, as well as decide what the extended public feedback process on the draft bylaw will look like. There was a previous online feedback process that garnered hundreds of comments.

As for the draft bylaw not dealing with fertilizers and pesticides, county planner Charlsey White said they had not been included because council had requested they not be. Danielsen said this request had been made because councillors thought this regulation would be difficult to enforce, but that perhaps it could be reconsidered.

While the draft bylaw does include aspects covered in other lower-tier bylaws, White said those bylaws cover the entire township, whereas the draft shoreline bylaw deals only with the 30-metre band around water bodies. There is a legislative mechanism by which the lower-tier townships can delegate authority to the county within this zone.

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FWD Blackout Edition. Bi-weekly payment is \$158 for 48 months at 1% lease rate (1% APR) on approved credit to qualified retail customers by GM Financial. The \$79 weekly payment is calculated by dividing the bi-weekly payments. Payments cannot be made on a weekly basis. Equivalent weekly payments are for informational purposes only. Annual kilometer limit of 20,000 km, \$0.16 per excess kilometer. \$2,800 down payment required. Payment may vary depending on down payment trade. Total obligation is \$18,486. Taxes, license, insurance, registration and applicable fees, levies, duties and, except in Quebec, dealer fees (all of which may vary by dealer and region) are extra. Option to purchase at lease end is \$14,356.^ To qualify for the Costco Member Pricing, you must be a Canadian resident holding a valid driver's license, have been a Costco member since January 2, 2020, or earlier and must: (1) Register with Costco to receive your non-transferable Authorization Number; (2) Present the Authorization Number to a participating dealer; (3) Retail purchase, finance or lease an eligible new or demonstrator in-stock 2020 Chevrolet: Equinox (excl. LS); delivered from January 3, 2020, to March 31, 2020. In addition, to receive a \$500 Costco Shop Card by email, submit a redemption form to Costco within thirty (30) days of vehicle delivery and complete a Costco member satisfaction survey. Please allow three weeks for Costco Shop Card delivery, pending completion of all eligibility requirements; including redemption form submission, purchase verification and survey completion. Costco Shop Cards will be emailed to the email address provided to Costco at the time of registration. The purchase or lease of a vehicle does not qualify for the calculation of the Costco Executive Membership 2% Reward. Offer may not be redeemed for cash. Conditions and limitations apply to this limited time offer. For full program details and for any applicable exclusions see a participating dealer or costcoauto.ca/GM. For Costco Shop Card terms and conditions, visit Costco.ca and search "Shop Card". Tax, title, registration and license fees, personal property registration fees, and additional products and services are not included in the Costco Member Pricing. Offer is valid at participating authorized GM Canada dealers. Offer not available in the U.S. or Mexico. Offer is subject to change without notice. Void where prohibited. Costco and its affiliates do not sell automobiles nor negotiate individual transactions. ®: Registered trademark of Price Costco International, Inc. used under license. Ω Whichever comes first. Limit of four complimentary Lube-Oil-Filter services in total. Fluid top-offs, inspections, tire rotations, wheel alignments and balancing, etc., are not covered. See the Warranty Booklet or your dealer for details.

Whichever comes first.

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TripAdvisor campaign gets go-ahead

by CHAD INGRAM Times Staff

"We don't govern by survey," Algonquin Highlands Mayor Carol Moffatt said as the county's tourism committee discussed, and ultimately supported, running a Haliburton Highlands campaign on popular online travel website TripAdvisor for 2020.

As previously reported, the purchase of a destination page on the website, along with an ad campaign, is part of the tourism department's marketing plan for the year. The tourism committee has been discussing the issue during the past few months. There has been some push-back against the idea, particularly from accommodators, since the online travel company takes a large commission somewhere between 15 and 30 per cent according to one committee member – of any bookings made through its internationally prominent website. A number of committee members have suggested that many people use TripAdvisor to find accommodations, but then typically contact those accommodators themselves to make bookings.

During a committee meeting in February, members had a teleconference call with a representative from TripAdvisor where they were able to ask questions about the destination page, which is a new product for the company. As county tourism director Amanda Virtanen has explained, it would allow the county to customize and control some of the content on that home page, the idea being to drive as much traffic back to the county's tourism website, with its links to local accommodations, eateries, attractions, event listings, etc., as possible. The cost of the destination page for one year is actually \$2,500, the rest of the approximately \$14,000 expense for an accompanying ad campaign on the site. At least \$10,000 a year must be spent with TripAdvisor for the year under the

During the February meeting, committee members had also asked for more feedback from tourism stakeholders and included in the agenda for the committee's March 11 meeting were the results of a survey that had apparently been conducted among stakeholders.

"We all appreciate the intent behind the survey that was taken," said Moffatt, who chairs the committee. "We didn't ask for a survey, we asked for feedback, so we didn't have any input into what the survey said, or

That survey, which indicated it contained 143 responses, showed about 22 per cent of respondents indicating support for the TripAdvisor campaign as planned, more than 45 per cent indicating they'd prefer the county seek alternatives to TripAdvisor, and the remainder supporting deferral until more was known, along with other options.

'There's accusations, there's been suggestions, that it's been hijacked, I don't know by who, or why," Moffatt said. "There's been speculation. This entire issue has gone to a crazy place and there are lots of issues in the world that are worthy of outrage, and this is not one of them."

The committee opted not to receive the survey as information.

"File it under, um, garbage," said Dysart et al Deputy Mayor Pat Kennedy. "We're here to make a decision, and if it's been hijacked, it's of no value to the committee or staff or anybody."

"This is the way of travel, now," said Dysart et al Mayor Andrea Roberts, expressing support for the campaign.

"Proceed, absolutely," said Minden Hills Mayor Brent Devolin. "The world changes, this is the future, we need to get on the bus and get going."

Not all members of the committee, which consists of county council along with some members of the public involved in the local tourism industry, were supportive, however.

"I don't disagree with the comments that have been made, however, I feel strongly that because it has gone off the rails, because it is such a contentious issue, that I just think we should set it aside, personally," said Algonquin Highlands Deputy Mayor and County Warden Liz Danielsen. "I don't think we've resolved the concerns. I wasn't completely satisfied with the responses that we got from the TripAdvisor person. I think there was some conflicting information there, and I'm not happy with the fact that there still are a number of people who are not supportive

of this, and they're the people we're trying to help. So I'm not supportive."

Committee member Rob Berthelot, who owns Halls Lake's Sandy Lane Resort, has repeatedly expressed his concern about the TripAdvisor idea and continued to do so.

"The large amount of people that are opposed to it are accommodators, which are going to be the only ones that [feel] a financial impact," Berthelot said, indicating he was concerned the move could ultimately force accommodation owners to start signing up with TripAdvisor individually. "The adventure types and the restaurants and that, they do not have to pay anything. So, if it does move forward, it could mean accommodators ultimately have to sign up for TripAdvisor, in order to get the full benefit of the county dollars."

We initially rolled this out in November as a way to help accommodators, and accommodators are saying, 'This doesn't help our accommodators, please don't do it," he

Berthelot echoed Danielsen's sentiments that the conversation with the TripAdvisor rep had left some unanswered questions.

Committee members agreed that after a year, if they weren't happy with the way the TripAdvisor campaign works out, the county would simply not renew for 2021.

"Nobody around this table is out to deliberately undermine any business owner in the county," Moffatt said. "We're trying to move things forward, and sometimes trying to move things forward requires a little bit

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Numbers

Ladies sweep into spring

The 2020 annual Sweep Into Spring Ladies Bonspiel took place at the Minden Curling Club on March 13 and 14. The theme of the spiel was "Under the Sea."

Thanks to our main sponsor Lynda Litwin Re/Max for all the special touches she added

We also thank our main local businesses

from Minden, Haliburton, Carnarvon and Norland who donated to our raffle table as well as our members who donated much appreciated items.

The day was a success thanks to our many members who donated time to help.

Submitted by Mary Copeland

Left, costume winners from Minden: Heather Rutledge, Trudy Hambly, Michele Walker, Lynda Litwin. /Submitted

Below, the winning Minden team: Janice Heggart, Mary Copeland, Nancy Lemire, Tracy Gualberto with the sponsor Lynda Litwin.



Here's How It Works:

8

6

3

6

9

Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

9

2

4

5

3

Level: Intermediate

8

Answers on page 14





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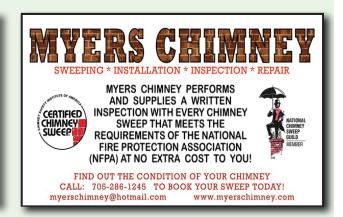


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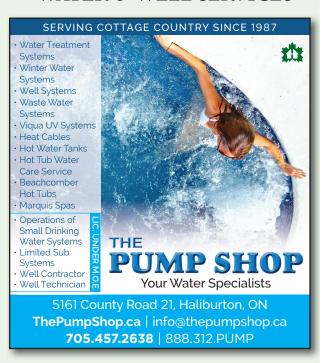
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Coronavirus ends Hawks' dreams of OFSAA gold

by DARREN LUM Times Staff

It was supposed to have been an opportunity to live out a dream, battling at the provincial championship and finishing on the podium for the Red Hawks boys' curling team.

The team made up of skip, Jacob Dobson; vice, Liam Little; second, Corin Gervais; and lead, Owen Nicholls, earned their Ontario Federation of School Athletic Associations berths with a COSSA title win on Monday, March 9 in Sterling, Ont.

Instead, the Hawks' season is over after OFSAA announced the cancellation of the all-provincial curling championships on Friday, March 13 as a precaution against the spread of the coronavirus.

The recent increase of cases and deaths in Canada and around the world prompted historic decisions such as border restrictions and recommendations to limit groups to less than 50 people in the province.

The team's veterans Jacob Dobson and Liam Little were understanding and acknowledge the serious nature of the

We are all disappointed by the decision to cancel OFSAA but we also understand why they made that decision. We were quite happy with the way we performed this season, winning our third straight Kawartha title and our second COSSA title as well as being the OSC [Ontario School Curling championships] regional champions and the OSC provincial champions. The Red Hawks curling program still has that last box to check off for OFSAA champions and we will just have to wait another year for that," Dobson wrote in a text message.

Before the cancellation, Little said winning OFSAA would have meant more to him and to the school due to its greater exposure. The team finished fifth at the all-provincials last

The graduating senior dreamt of being on the OFSAA po-



Call for Tender

The Township of Algonquin Highlands is seeking sealed bids from qualified, experienced trades to renovate the Stanhope Library as per the design, to achieve accessibility to the building entrance, basement and upper floor.

Closing date: March 31, 2020 at 2:00pm

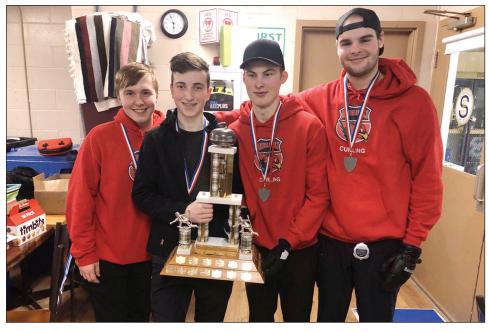
Tender and submission documents can be found at www.algonquinhighlands.ca

For further information contact: Township of Algonquin Highlands 705-489-2379

Adam Thorn, Operations Manager

SUDOKU SOLUTION

7	2	6	3	9	5	8	4	1
9	1	5	4	8	6	3	2	7
4	3	8	2	1	7	9	5	6
1	5	4	7	3	9	2	6	8
2	7	3	6	4	8	1	9	5
8	6	9	5	2	1	4	7	3
6	4	1	8	7	2	5	3	9
5	9	2	1	6	3	7	8	4
3	8	7	9	5	4	6	1	2



The Red Hawks boys' curling team, from left, Owen Nicholls, Corin Gervais, Jacob Dobson and Liam Little are disappointed about the cancellation of the OFSAA championship due to COVID-19 concerns, but will remember winning the OSC Provincial Championship and the COSSA trophy, seen here in this image taken on March 4 in Stirling, Ont. / Submitted by Liam Little

dium for himself and his team, but also for the Haliburton Highlands Secondary School.

"Ya, for sure, it's always disappointing to get news like this, but you also have to keep in mind the health and safety of the athletes and that's for sure the [most important]. We as a team have accomplished so much this season on and off the ice and that's something that can never be taken away from us. Even though this was my last season and it didn't end the way I was hoping, I'm still going to look back on this team and remember the great things we did and not what we missed," he wrote in a text.

Less than two weeks ago, the athletic and public event landscape was a very different place with many events expected to go ahead. There are now cancellations in every sector of society, including concerts, plays and municipal meetings.

These are efforts to reduce interactions and practise "social distancing," which is a term for maintaining space between people, encouraged by public health officials to stop or slow down the spread of a highly contagious disease.

This season for the Hawks may be without an OFSAA trip, but it wasn't without exclamation marks.

The COSSA title was a repeat performance for Dobson, Little and Gervais, and the first for Nicholls, who joined the team this year.

The Hawks' COSSA repeat didn't come without challenge. To qualify for OFSAA, the Hawks beat Eastside 6-5, St. Peter Catholic Secondary School 11-2 and then East Northumberland 7-1 (opponents conceded after five ends) in the final earlier this month. The final game's score belies the Hawks effort to beat their opponent, who entered with a 2-0 record in the tournament.

Hawks skip Dobson said the close score in the first game was indicative of the team's comfort levels.

"The 6-5 game was a little bit more challenging in the sense it was our first game in a new club with different ice and rocks and we just weren't quite as comfortable as we hoped we would," he wrote in a text. "But in general the final game was by far the toughest with constant pressure being put on by

ENSS throughout. In that game we were up three going into the last end and on my last shot all we had to do was remove one rock from play. The score was as close as it is because the rock I threw rolled a few inches too far but we were ahead throughout the entire game," he said.

This year's repeat win came after a heartbreaking loss for Dobson and Little, who came up a few centimetres short of COSSA gold three years ago. The pair had to settle for a silver medal that year before taking gold last year and again this

Nicholls was proud about earning the berth to OFSAA.

"It means a lot to make it to OFSAA especially on my first year. It definitely wasn't easy but I'm very proud of myself for making it and it makes me feel like a better curler!" he said, a day before the championship cancellation.

Curling is about more than just technical skills, Little said. This team's success this season is owed to its chemistry.

"The two new guys just gelled in with the team right from the get-go. We all just bonded. Had really good chemistry from the start and I think that was a huge bonus for our team, knowing the other teams may have complications. Knowing that we had the chemistry already right from get-go definitely a huge advantage in the game of curling in Gore and going into OFSAA will be," he said. "We all have the same goals. We're all on the same page. Having each other's backs. Knowing we have that is a really, really good thing.'

The one golden provincial lining for the Red Hawks this season is the 2020 OSC championship title.

Little said taking the OSC title (formerly Gore) was an amazing achievement.

It came as a surprise to the Hawks and is something the team can always have.

"Winning Gore was definitely an amazing thing. We went in expecting to do well, but we never really expected to win the whole entire thing. We kind of got into a groove and won some games straight through and pulled it off in the final ... our team played really, really well," he said.



Bowling Scores

Monday March 9, 2020

High Average (cumulative)

Women – Cathy Snell – 218

Men – Rick West – 221

This Week's Highs - Women High Single – Chris Cote – 258

High Single Hcp – Chris Cote – 296

High Triple – Chris Cote – 690 High Triple Hcp - Chris Cote - 804

This Week's Highs - Men

High Single – Rick West -280

High Single Hcp - Gary Hunt & Rick West - 284

High Triple – Rick West – 743

High Triple Hcp – Rick West – 755

Tuesday, March 10

Men

High Average - Claude Cote - 197

High Single - Claude Cote - 284 High Single H/C – Claude Cote – 307

High Triple – Claude Cote – 649

High Triple H/C - Jim Fahl - 721

Women

High Average – Chris Cote – 179

High Single – Chris Cote – 224

High Single H/C – Chris Cote – 261

High Triple – Chris Cote – 538

High Triple H/C – Rae Shepheard – 686

Haliburton Red Wolves Bowling Scores

Casey Heley – 239

Skylar Pratt – 187

Emily Boccitto – 151 Jeffrey Coulson – 151

Lucas Anderson - 141

Brodie Mason - 138

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We thank all who apply for this position, however only those selected for an interview will be contacted.

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HOUSING MANAGER Haliburton Community Housing Corporation

Haliburton Community Housing Corporation (HCHC) operates two non-profit housing projects in the Village of Haliburton, Ontario

JOB SUMMARY

The Housing Manager reports directly to the HCHC Board of Directors and oversees all day-to-day operations at Parklane Apartments and Echo Hills Apartments in compliance with federal, provincial and municipal legislation, ensuring that all operations are conducted in timely and cost-effective ways. The Manager maintains positive relationships with tenants, staff, vendors and the Board of Directors.

SKILLS AND EXPERIENCE

- Knowledge of the Housing Services Act and regulations, Residential Tenancies Act and regulations, social housing programs, other legislation pertinent to operating residential properties
- At least 5 years of supervisory experience Strong communication, interpersonal, multitasking and conflict resolution skills
- Compassion and empathy skills suitable for a social housing environment
- Effective budgeting, analytical, administrative and organizational skills
- Proficient computer skills, including MS Word, Excel, Outlook, HM Worx
- Ability to work with minimal supervision
- Possesses a valid driver's licence and vehicle with insurance
- The successful candidate will be required to obtain a clean Vulnerable Sector Check prior to being confirmed for the position

This is a full-time salaried position with an expectation that while the work can be generally completed Monday to Friday at 40 hours a week, there will be times after hours and weekend work are expected without payment of additional compensation. The start day is negotiable the salary is competitive and commensurate with experience, benefits are included. References will be requested at the interview. Any questions email Glenn Scott at contact information is below.

Resume plus cover letter must be submitted electronically no later than 3 p.m. on Wednesday, April 8, 2020 to:

> Mr. Glenn Scott, President Haliburton Community Housing Corporation Email address: president@haliburtonhousing.com

HCHC thanks all applicants. Only those chosen to be interviewed will be contacted. If contacted for an interview, please inform if you require accommodation in the interview process.

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Community FUNERAL HOME Norma "Jean" May

(Resident of Minden, Ontario)

Jean passed away peacefully with her family by her side on March 11, 2020. she grew up in Uxbridge, Ontario and married her high school sweetheart, Ron May, and celebrated their 50th Anniversary in 2017. Together they had two children, Stephen May (Kathy) and Brenda Duncan (Will). Jean will be lovingly remembered by her four grandchildren, Krista Duncan, Carley Duncan,

Ryan May, and Sarah May. Jean is predeceased by her parents, Lorne and Edith Langstaff. She is survived by her husband Ron, sister Linda Stickwood (Chess), brothers George Langstaff (Vicky), and Bob Langstaff (Rosy).

In addition to being a loving wife, mother, and grandmother, Jean was also an accomplished crafter. Everything she made was precise and particular to detail that she was proud to share with others. She shared paintings, quilts, needlework. knitting, sewing, and pottery with family and friends to be cherished for years to come. Jean was immensely loved by her family and friends; she leaves behind nothing but beautiful memories.

Visitation, Celebration Of Life & Reception

Friends are invited to visit the family at HALIBURTON COMMUNITY FUNERAL HOME 13523 Hwy #118, Haliburton, Ontario, (705) 457-9209 on Monday evening March 16, 2020 from 7-9 p.m. A service to celebrate Jean's life will be held on Tuesday morning, March 17, 2020 at HALIBURTON UNITED CHURCH 10 George St, Haliburton, Ontario at 11 a.m. (Visitation one hour prior). Reception to follow the service in the Church Hall.

In lieu of flowers, as an expression of sympathy, memorial donations to Haliburton Highlands Health Services Foundation (HHHSF) would be appreciated. Jean is very appreciative of the excellent care through Dr. Tina Stephenson, all the doctors, nurses, and support staff that keep the hospital a high-quality medical facility for residences of the county.

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OMB hearing planned

Minden zoning by-law passes third reading

The revised zoning by-law for Anson, Hindon and Minden townships has received third and final reading by the municipal council. The final approval came at the close of the March 10 meeting.

The by-law, which enacts numerous amendments to the existing zoning regulations, has been under study for almost a year. The by-law controls building activity and development in the municipality, regulating such items set-backs from roadways, zones for residential, rec-reational, commercial and industrial purposes, mini-mum size for certain structures among others. The passing of the by-law

took place after an extended closed meeting, which the council claimed was necessary to discuss township employee wages. The third reading did not appear on either the agenda or the addendum for the meeting.

Recently a number of residents of the municipality had requested that a second public meeting be held to discuss the implications of the amendments. In particular there was concern about the change in zoning for cottages

in shoreline areas. Some cottage owners believe that the introduction of a "recreational residential" zoning could mean they will be unable to convert their cottages into permanent residences when they retire.

The minimum frontage for shoreline properties has also been a point of contention in the past with various figures from the present 100 feet up to 200 feet being suggested as alternatives.

The delineation of a hazard land zone through the Village of Minden has also caused some controversy with Ministry of Natural Resources planning personnel claiming they would file formal objections to the bylaw if the potential for flooding in the area was not

Objections

Having given the by-law final reading, the document will now be forwarded to the Ontario Municipal Board. A public hearing will then be arranged at which time rateand others with objections to the contents of the document can present their points of view.
in the municipality, giving everyone an opportunity to examine the document carefully before it receives final approval from the Ontario

government. That was one reason, according to municipal clerk Elinor Burke, for the speedy passage of third reading. She pointed out that under the grant structure of the

April to mail a copy of the bylaw to each ratepayer. If the township missed the deadline, it could jeopardize the grants the housing ministry has promised to assist with the preparation of the document.

The deadline for circulating the by-law has been extended once already.

The document has been prepared by the municipality in consultation with planners



The Minden arena was filled with an energetic group of Ministry of Housing, the municipality has until early firm of Proctor and Redfern. costumed skaters Sunday. For more pictures of the day's show, see page 8.

Browndale announces plans for wilderness camping area

province-wide organization of residential youth treatment centres, is planning to introduce wilderness camping on a 600 acre site north of Minden area.

Plans for the project, which is to be developed on property straddling the Vankoughnet Road at the Queen's Line, were formally approved by the Anson, Hindon and Minden municipal council at the March 10 meeting.

Browndale currently operates several group homes wilderness camping program will be a continuation of a similar program which has been formerly located on the Berry line in Stanhope town-

Don Cameron, property manager for Browndale's Toronto office, and Bill Payne of Wrightman Realty presented the proposals for the project at the March 10 meeting of Minden council. Payne told council that the Browndale group is seeking

plan before purchasing the

The 600 acre property is currently owned by Wally and Joan Bunn of Minden. Payne said following the meeting that the sale will most likely be completed by the end of March.

Cameron told council that the wilderness camping area, once it is fully developed, will draw on the central and eastern regions of Browndale's current operations. According to Cameron, the council's "blessing" for the program will bring between

400 and 600 youths and adults to the area.

Cameron estimated that 160 youths and the same number of staff members will use the property once it is in full operation. He told councillors that parents visiting their children at the site will bring the total number of people using the property to roughly 600 in peak periods.

The proposed site for the camp is currently zoned for

(more on page 3)



Marta Vanderwal gives encouragement to a member of the ACLD in the PineStone Inn pool.

Pool fun also a learning experience

Even though it may be cold have taken the opportunity to conducting the swimming and tranquil in surrounding woods, any Thursday afternoon from 4:15 until 5:00 the PineStone Inn rings with the shouts and splashes of children in the pool downstairs. All the activity is part of the swimming program held each week at the resort by the Association for Children Learning Disabilities

Thanks to the generosity of the PineStone, the association has been able to provide swimming instruction for its members for the past three months. Eleven Minden children from grades 1 to 8

be coached in a range of activities, from diving and treading water to the front crawl, breast stroke, side stroke and elementary back stroke.

The ACLD was founded four years ago by Mrs. Ernice Warder, a special education teacher at the Archie Stouffer School in Minden. She has been instrumental in setting up the Thursday swimming sessions, and several other the ACLD. Rob Dennys, an instructor

with Browndale Ontario in Haliburton County, has been

program for the ACLD on a volunteer basis for several years. The Thursday sessions operate on a one-to-one basis, one adult working with each child. The majority of participants are teachers from Minden and Haliburton schools, and several parents of participating children also take part.

Dennys is pleased with the results of the program. Walking around the pool with programs also sponsored by clip board in hand, he keeps a careful eye on the children's

(more on page 2)

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- 3,880 sqft post & beam lakefront home with 104'
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Twelve Mile Lake \$749,000

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Dbl garage, loft, deep off the dock, 3 lake system





Miskwabi Lake \$699,900

- 4-season cottage/home on awesome 2-lake chain · Clean rock shoreline, big lake view, sunset exposure
- Municipal road access, 20 minutes from Haliburton



· Beautiful 3-bedroom, 2 bath home or cottage

Large windows & deck overlooking the lake

· Southern Exposure, sand beach on Redstone



Carnarvon Church \$249,000

- Historic property in a prime location bordering on
- Located in between Minden & Haliburton Village Shopping & restaurants are nearby











Barry Line \$349,000

- Private country home on 2 acresOpen concept with 3 bedrooms, 1 bath · Conveniently located on a quiet road between
- Haliburton & Minden



South Lake \$149,000

- Beautiful waterfront lot!
- 118 feet frontage, level,
- Driveway in, hydro at line. Area of nicer homes & cottages.

Haliburton-By-The-Lake \$399,000

- Open Concept, 3-bedroom, 2 bath home
- Walking distance to all the amenities in town
- Includes access to a private park & boat launch

Gooderham Home \$315,000

- Good-bye City Life, Hello Country Life
- Spacious home nestled on a lovely in-town lot
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